

PERMANENT FUNDS

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

The State Constitution was amended in 1984 to provide for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The fund, established in 1985, operates under Michigan Compiled Laws Sections 324.1901 - 324.1910. Most rentals, royalties, and other revenues derived from mineral, coal, oil, and gas interests on State-owned land are credited to the fund. Michigan Compiled Laws Section 324.1902 directs a portion (50%, up to \$10 million per year) of these revenues to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund. The voters approved a constitutional amendment in August 2002, which increased the amount that can be accumulated to \$500 million, modified the distribution formula, and allows the State Treasurer to invest in equity securities and other types of investments.

In accordance with statutory provisions, this fund is to accumulate up to \$500 million in reserves for permanent investments. The amount accumulated toward this cap is shown as a reservation of fund balance. Investment earnings and one-third of royalty earnings are available for appropriation. Two-thirds of royalty earnings, less the portion transferred to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund, are added to amounts held for permanent investments until the investment reserve reaches \$500 million. After that time, all royalties will be transferred from this fund to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund and only investment earnings and interest will be available for appropriation. Appropriations are used to fund grants to local units of government as well as State agencies to acquire land or develop public recreation facilities and to fund payments in lieu of property taxes on State lands acquired by the fund.

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ENDOWMENT FUND

Established in 1994, this fund is governed by the provisions of MCL Section 324.74119 to finance operations, maintenance, and capital improvements at Michigan State parks. The voters approved a constitutional amendment in August 2002 that changed the distribution formula and allows the State Treasurer to invest in equity securities and other types of investments.

The fund was established with a \$40 million transfer from the sale of the Accident Fund of Michigan to provide funds for permanent investment. By statute, up to \$10 million per year of revenues from oil and gas bonuses, rentals, and royalties from State-owned land are deposited into this fund until the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund reaches an accumulated principal of \$500 million after which time all revenue previously going to that fund will go to this fund. The fund's investment reserve will be capped at \$800 million. The legislature is limited to appropriating no more than 50% of the amount transferred from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund plus interest and investment earnings. When the fund's reserve reaches \$800 million, only the interest and earnings in excess of the amount needed to maintain the \$800 million principal limit, annually adjusted for inflation, may be expended.

MICHIGAN VETERANS' TRUST FUND

Article 9, Section 37 of the State Constitution created this fund to finance programs to assist veterans and their beneficiaries. A seven-member board of trustees governs the fund. Resources are provided by investment and common cash earnings. Expenditures and transfers out reflect grants to veterans and their widows or dependents, and administrative costs at both the State and local level. The fund is administered within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.